IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 3 and 4 as follows.

Claims 1 and 2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A manipulator, ~~according to claim 1, further~~ comprising:

a manipulation target object manipulating member being driven and controlled by a plurality of free rotation axes, with all of the free rotation axes crossing at one intersection, and a manipulation distal end portion of said manipulating member being placed near the intersection;

first rotating means for rotating a first rotating shaft on which a first arm is mounted;

second rotating means for rotating a second rotating shaft which is mounted on ~~the~~ said first arm, and on which a second arm is mounted; and

third rotating means for rotating a third rotating shaft which is mounted on ~~the~~ said second arm, and on which a third arm is mounted,

wherein said manipulating member is mounted on ~~the~~ said third rotating shaft, and said first, second, and third rotating shafts pass through a manipulation distal end portion of said manipulating member.

4.   (Currently Amended) A minute object manipulating apparatus comprising:

a manipulator comprising a manipulation target object manipulating member being driven and controlled by a plurality of free rotation axes, all of the ~~plurality of~~ free rotation axes crossing at one ~~point~~ intersection, and a manipulation distal end portion of said manipulating member being placed near the intersection;

a magnifying observation device for magnifying observation of ~~the~~ a manipulation target object and ~~the~~ said manipulation distal end portion of said manipulating member; and

a remote controller for remotely controlling said manipulator.

5.   (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said manipulator is placed on an upper side of the manipulation target object, and said magnifying observation device is placed on a lower side of the manipulation target object.